

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 205740  
ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCA-01 L-03 PPT-01 SCS-03 PA-01  
PRS-01 /021 R

DRAFTED BY AF/W:BSKIRKPATRICK:IW  
APPROVED BY AF:WCHARROP  
SCA:CMCCULLOM  
L/SCA:RDALTON (INFO)  
PPT/F:FRANDO (INFO)  
SCA/SCS:EPOWERS (INFO)  
AF/P:RHOLLIDAY (INFO)  
-----098396 291351Z /45  
R 291258Z AUG 77  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY COTONOU

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, PDIP, DM

SUBJECT: TRAVEL ADVISORY

REF: A) STATE 197266 B) COTONOU 1360

1. AMBASSADOR BOYA ADVISED DEPARTMENT ON AUGUST 25 THAT HE HAD INFORMED FOREIGN MINISTER BY LETTER OF HIS CONVERSATION WITH ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARROP. DEPARTMENT EXPECTS THAT POST WILL HAVE TO CONTACT FOREIGN MINISTRY TO FOLLOW UP IN ORDER TO OBTAIN PROMPT RESPONSE.

2. DEPARTMENT CONSIDERING MESSAGE FOR ALL DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR POSTS AND ALL U.S. PASSPORT OFFICES. MESSAGE WILL ALSO BE DEPARTMENT PRESS RELEASE. WE WILL ALSO GIVE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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COPY TO EMBASSY OF BENIN. WE WILL EMPHASIZE TO ALL RECIPIENTS THAT STEPS MUST BE TAKEN TO WARN U.S. CITIZENS AND THAT MESSAGE EFFECTIVE UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

3. REQUEST POST COMMENT ON DRAFT MESSAGE. AFTER RECEIPT POST COMMENT DEPARTMENT WILL INSTRUCT YOU TO APPROACH GPRB. MESSAGE IS DRAWN PRIMARILY FROM EMBASSY REPORTING.

DEPARTMENT BELIEVES MESSAGE SHOULD BE DETAILED SO AS TO BE  
SUFFICIENTLY CONVINCING.

4. BEGIN TEXT:

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BENIN HAS CONTINUED TO DEMONSTRATE GREAT CONCERN FOR ITS SECURITY SINCE THE ARMED ATTACK ON COTONOU IN JANUARY OF THIS YEAR. THE GOVERNMENT OF BENIN SUSPECTS THAT THE JANUARY 1977 ATTACK WAS SCOUTED BY FOREIGN TOURISTS AND FEARS A REPETITION. BENINESE AUTHORITIES ARE THUS ESPECIALLY SENSITIVE TO THE PRESENCE OF FOREIGNERS. SINCE THE ATTACK, ARBITRARY INCARCERATIONS OF FOREIGN NATIONALS HAVE OCCURRED, AND FOREIGNERS HAVE BEEN DETAINED WITHOUT CHARGE FOR INDEFINITE PERIODS.

THE BENINESE AUTHORITIES ARE PARTICULARLY SENSITIVE TO INDIVIDUALS TAKING PICTURES, YOUNG PEOPLE DISPLAYING A "LIBERATED" LIFE STYLE OR WEARING BLUE JEANS, BACK PACKS, LONG HAIR OR BEARDS AND VISITORS TRAVELLING IN GROUPS.

OUR EMBASSY HAS EXPERIENCED GREAT DIFFICULTY IN OBTAINING THE RELEASE OF AMERICAN CITIZENS WHO HAVE BEEN DETAINED BY BENINESE AUTHORITIES. ALL AMERICAN CITIZENS ARE DISCOURAGED FROM TRAVELLING TO BENIN UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE UNLESS ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY. ALL TRAVELERS ARE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REQUESTED TO INFORM THE AMERICAN EMBASSY IN COTONOU WELL IN ADVANCE OF INTENDED TRAVEL PLANS TO BENIN. END OF TEXT.

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** NATIONAL SECURITY, TRAVEL CONTROLS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 29-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977STATE205740  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** BSKIRKPATRICK:IW  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770311-0882  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** STATE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Legacy Key:** link1977/newtext/t19770812/aaaaajpd.tel  
**Line Count:** 99  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 4cf05751-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ORIGIN AF  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 77 STATE 197266, 77 COTONOU 1360  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 06-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 1447972  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** TRAVEL ADVISORY  
**TAGS:** CASC, PDIP, DM  
**To:** COTONOU  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/4cf05751-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009